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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: MINORITIES

Letter dated 26 February 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission
on Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith,* the text entitled "International Media Farce on the so-called Oppression of the Albanian National Minority in Serbia". I would like to ask you to have it published as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under items 9 and 14(b) of the provisional agenda.

(signed) Branko BRANKOVIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* The annex is reproduced as received in the language of submission only.

**INTERNATIONAL MEDIA FARCE ON THE SO-CALLED OPPRESSION OF THE ALBANIAN NATIONAL
MINORITY IN SERBIA**

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT ALBANIANS IN KOSOVO AND METOHİJA, WHO CLAIM TO BE SYSTEMATICALLY PERSECUTED AND OPPRESSED, REACHED NEVERTHELESS SUCH A LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT THAT IT IS NOW PRISTINA AND NOT TIRANA THAT WANTS TO BECOME THE LEADING CENTRE OF OVERALL ALBANIAN UNIFICATION CONTAINED IN THE IDEA OF A "GREATER ALBANIA"?

For those, curious and well-intentioned in world media intensively engaged in the issue of Kosovo and Metohija over the past months, such a question arouses one to think over and study the essence of what is going on in this southern Serbian province. A suddenly provoked campaign to change the state and political status of Kosovo and Metohija, followed by terrorism, is continuously on front pages and prime times in most world media, but recipients are being offered a simplified and dangerously distorted picture, which is in fact hiding rare attempts to analyze and explain in a serious way why such a thing is happening at the end of the 20th century.

The world is aware that a change of status for Kosovo and Metohija is being claimed "in the name of national, minority and human rights and freedoms". Such a media stereotype does not incite one to think that, behind a campaign followed by terrorism, lies the first, but basic step aimed at creating a "Greater Albania". The peak of the political and media hypocrisy is certainly the fact that a so-called liberal and democratic movement conceals a scenario for a final establishment of an ethnically pure state of Albanians in the Balkans.

Kosovo and Metohija is the key to the "greater Albanian" endeavour and has been triggered in the light of two facts:

First, the state power of today's Albania with its weaknesses, crises and conflicts is not strong enough to be the Piedmont of Albanian unification; as Kosovo and Metohija has an extraordinary geographic and strategic position ("fortress of the Balkans" and its epicentre), natural and demographic resources, it is to play the role of unification, but it has previously to change its state and political status;

Second, secessionists count on the situation the FR of Yugoslavia faced after the break up of former Yugoslavia and secession of former Yugoslav Republics, making through the unprecedented media campaign based on lies its rating in the international community very low.

It is further more naive to believe alleged facts on the "liberation nature of the armed resistance" of Albanians and its spontaneous gathering. When denouncing this notorious media lie, one has to take into account several important facts.

First, attempts to set up a "Greater Albania" by seceding Kosovo and Metohija are not an authentic expression of the Albanian national minority. As in the distant past, it is, today as well, an instrument easing the accomplishment of great powers' interests. At the time of the Albanian League, referred to with proud by Albanians and their promoters, its political program was not an expression of this nation's struggle for liberation, but the expression intended at preserving the Ottoman Empire. Today, the alleged "national movement" hides understandable aspirations of great powers, considering Kosovo's wealth in resources and the fact that the future oil pipeline, running from the Caspian Sea further toward the West, is to cross Kosovo and Metohija.

Second, the starting point of the Albanian concept has always been that it would be possible for national aspirations to be settled to the detriment of other peoples, and, as a rule, with the help of some great power being the most influential in the region at the time. When, in June 1878, was founded the Albanian League, its program was presented as if there were no population belonging to another nationality and living in the area the League aspired to. At that time, Albanians made 44% of the total population. Even today, when they mention Kosovo and Metohija, no mention is being made to population of other origin. Such an anti-liberal and anti-democratic form of national unification, with discriminatory contents, strongly affects present events, but this fact is being purposely disregarded by media in Western democracies. Aspirations of ethnic Albanians wrapped in such a way would weaken and break up three orthodox federal units of the former Yugoslavia, and, according to experts, they would most hit Serbia. Namely, Kosovo and Metohija is, except for eastern Orthodoxy, the third important factor of Serbian national identity. It is estimated that in that case Montenegro would lose one third of its territory, and the FYR of Macedonia would practically cease to exist. We can not recall that anyone among the most influential has ever pointed to the general public this dimension of the problem in Kosovo and Metohija and the manoeuvre made with the aim of secession of Kosovo and Metohija and creation of a "Greater Albania".

Third, a new unified Albanian state is possible solely as a state created by foreign intervention in highly undemocratic conditions, as it is anyway the case with today's Albania. The whole concept is based on forceful albanisation, expulsion of non-Albanian population and establishment of an ethnically pure state the rise of which would be beyond its own ethnic region. A false democratic authorization of the Albanian issue, with constant referrals to human rights, is but a concealed invitation for the principle of national homogenisation to be applied.

Thus, in fact, NATO's voicing in regard to Kosovo and Metohija seems to reaffirm anew the close links this union has to do with the accomplishment of the "Greater Albania" project. It is hence understandable, why such a union is ignored by the media. The military pacts Albania concluded and its coming closer to NATO several years ago, confirm how much seriousness was invested in military preparations aimed at provoking from the outside the Kosovo and Metohija crisis.

Forth, the "greater Albanian" idea being the root of the current crisis in Kosovo and Metohija, it is originally under the sign of radical political Islam.

There is now a tendency to represent the centuries-old historic Muslim oppression over neighbouring Christians as an alleged oppression of Albanians by neighbouring Christians. If that stereotype is to be accepted by Western countries, there is a serious danger that the radical Islam turn against those who are presently giving their blessing to it.

Experts warn that any change in Kosovo and Metohija aimed at "greater Albanian" goal would threaten balance in the Balkans, and Europe would soon be faced with the Algerian scenario of rejecting European models. Hiding these facts from its general public in the name of making a Satan of the "disobedient Serbia", Western media become part of a typical Islamic offensive, although the latter would not stop at the Balkans and this part of Europe. This is ever more realistic if documents of the Albanian League - a "bible to Albanians" - are but given a glance at. The Islamic character of the movement is noticeable in the facts that sessions of the League were being held in the Prizren mosque, whereas the special characteristic of the statute was Islam. The sixteen articles of this document do not mention explicitly Albanians and Albania. All those of Muslim religion are the political subject of the League, and deserting the League is qualified as "deserting Islam".

Fifth, the "Albanian movement" insists on an ethnically pure state. The first example of ethnic cleansing, recently, in the Balkans was registered in its moves in the southern Serbian province. It ended with almost 800 ethnically pure villages, without Serbs, Romanies, Turks... Ethnical cleansing is a constant in the "greater Albanian movement", but it does not prevent Western media from creating a distorted picture of Serbs as "ethnic-hygiene makers". Although the ethnic structure in Kosovo and Metohija, in the aftermath of the Berlin Congress, First and Second World War, and communist oligarchy, has been continuously changing to the detriment of Serbs, it seems as if it were not convincing enough for designers of Western general public. Thus, this is the culmination of the process of weakening Serbia by means of the Albanian issue in Kosovo and Metohija. That way, Western media analysts have given their modern contribution to the strategy in force at the time of Broz.
